

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 ACDA-05 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /081 W

----- 063673

R 250445Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3103

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MOGADISCIO 1090

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, UR, US, UK, SO

SUBJECT: SOVIET BASE ISSUE: SOMALI PROTEST NOTE TO BRITISH EMBASSY

1. SOMALI GOVT HAS PRESENTED NOTE TO BRITISH EMBASSY MOGADISCIO DENYING US ALLEGATIONS OF SOVIET BASE AT BERBERA AND STRONGLY PROTESTING DISTRIBUTION OF US RECONNAISSANCE PHOTOS OF BERBERA BY BRITISH DEFENSE SECRETARY MASON. NOTE WARNS BRITISH THAT UNJUSTIFIED STATEMENTS ABOUT SOVIET BASE IN BERBERA BY UK COULD CAUSE DETERIORATION IN BILATERAL RELATIONS.
2. SOMALI NOTE ALSO COMPLAINS ABOUT UNFAVORABLE BBC BROADCASTS ON SOMALIA AND UK PARTICIPATION IN DIEGO GARCIA FINANCING.
3. US ALSO ACCUSED NOT ONLY OF FABRICATING ALLEGATIONS OF SOVIET BASE AT BERBERA BUT OF MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF WORLD WHICH QTE HAVE BEEN BOTH TRAGIC AND WASTEFUL UNQTE.
4. BRITISH CHARGE HAS FORWARDED TEXT OF NOTE TO LONDON AND IS AWAITING INSTRUCTION.

5. FULL TEXT OF NOTE AS FOLLOWS:

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QTE THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S EMBASSY IN MOGADISHU AND HAS THE HONOUR TO STATE THE FOLLOWING:

QTE THE UNITED STATES, FOR A PERIOD NOW CLOSE TO TWO YEARS, HAVE BEEN INDULGING IN CERTAIN SERIOUS ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, IN EFFECT, THAT THE UNION OF THE SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC HAS ESTABLISHED A MISSILE BASE AT BERBERA. THESE CHARGES HAVE BEEN DENIED, TIME AND AGAIN BY THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT, WHERE EVEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, JAALLE MAJOR GENERALBOHAMED SIAD BARRE HIMSELF NEGATED THE EXISTENCE OF THIS BASE IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS AT HOME AND ELSEWHERE.

QTE THE REPETITION OF THESE ALLEGATIONS HAVE CAUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO EXTEND INVITATIONS TO MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN SENATE AND CONGRESS AND TO OTHER FOREIGN OBSERVERS TO VISIT BERBERA IN ORDER TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES THAT THESE ALLEGATIONS HAVE NO FOUNDATION AT ALL.

QTE ALTHOUGH SOMALIA INVITED OBSERVERS TO SEE BERBERA IN GOOD FAITH, IT SEEMS THAT THE REPORTS OF THE UNITED STATES TEAMS ON RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRYCAST CERTAIN DOUBT ON THE MATTER. THIS DID NOT SURPRISE THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC BECUASE THE REASONS WHICH MADE THE UNITED STATES DEFENSE DEPARTMENT FABRICATE THE CHARGES IN THE FIRST PLACE, STILL LOOK SUFFICIENTLY STRONG, FOR OBVIOUS MOTIVES, TO BE MAINTAINED IN ORDER TO JUSTIFY TO CONGRESS THE EXISTENCE OF THEIR MILITARY BASE AT DIEGO GARCIA.

QTE THE SENATE AND CONGRESS VISITING TEAMS WERE NOT FORTUNATELY ALONE IN THIS INSPECTION TASK. OBSERVERS, FROM DIFFERENT INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCIES, INCLUDING SOME FROM THE UNITED STATES ITSELF HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT BERBERA. THEIR FINDINGS CLEARLY INDICATED THAT THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE WHATSOEVER OF THE EXISTENCE OF MILITARY BASE IN BERBERA. THAT NEUTRAL JUDGEMENT WAS REALLY MOST GRATIFYING BECAUSE ONE SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC WISHED TO PUT THE INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION AT REST REGARDLESS OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICIAL DESIGNS.

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QTE THE UNITED STATES MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD HAVE BEEN BOTH TRAGIC AND WASTEFUL. THEY MAY FIND IT A LUXURY TO ENGAGE IN THAT EXERCISE, BUT IT IS MOST UNFORTUNATE THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM FINDS SOME CAUSE TO SHARE MILITARY INTEREST AND EXPENDITURE WITH THE UNITED STATES IN GARCIA AND TO INDICATE EVIDENCE TOWARDS THE BRITISH WISH TO DO SO IN FUTURE.

QTE SINCE THE ADVENT OF THE SOCIALIST REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT IN SOMALIA, THE BRITISH PAPERS AND MORE FREQUENTLY THE BBC, WHICH IS A SEMI OFFICIAL CORPORATION HAVE BEEN UNFAVORUABLY INCLINED TO REPORT ON THE AFFAIRS OF SOMALIA, BUT THE SOMALI POPLA WHO HAVE REACHED CREDITABLE MATURITY IN THEIR POLITICAL AWARENESS DID NOT HEED THAT PROPAGANDA.

QTE OF COURSE THE HISTORICAL DAMAGE WHICH THE UNITED KINGDOM HAD INFLICTED ON THE SOMALI PEOPLE CAN HARDLY BE FORGOTTEN. IT WAS THE HOPE OF THE SOMALI PEOPLE THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM MIGHT TAKE STEPS TO REDRESS THEMSELVES OR AT LEAST SAVE THEMSELVES ANY FURTHER NEGATIVE INTERFERENCE IN SOMALI AFFAIRS.

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R 250545Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3104

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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QTE THE DISTRIBUTION OF AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHS OF BERBERA BY THE BRITISH DEFENCE SECRETARY MR. ROY MASON, LAST WEEK TO THE TWO BRITISH POLITICAL PARTIES NOT ONLY SUGGESTS THAT INTENTION, BUT IT IS ALSO DIRECTED TO CREATE ALARM IN BRITISH PUBLIC OPINION SO THAT FUTURE BUDGETARY APPROVALS MAY BE JUSTIFIED IN PARLIAMENT FOR GARCIA AGAINST THE LOGICAL OPPOSITION OF THE BRITISH PEOPLE WHO ARE MOST CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR CURRENT ECONOMIC PLIGHT.

QTE THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES MAY CHOOSE TO BE ALREADY IMPRESSED

BY THE AMERICAN VIEWS ON THEIR ALLEGATIONS WITH REGARD TO A UNION OF THE SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS BASE IN BERBERA, BUT THIS WOULD INEVITABLY INVOLVE THEM IN MAKING UNJUSTIFIED STATEMENTS ABOUT SOMALIA WHICH AGAIN MAY CAUSE OUR RELATIONS TO DETERIORATE.

QTE IN THIS CONNECTION THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC WISHES TO AFFIRM TO THE GOVERNMENT OF HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY THAT NO FOREIGN BASE EXISTS IN SOMALIA AND WILL NOT IN FUTURE. IT TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PROTEST STRONGLY AGAINST THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS BY MR. MASON, AND HOPES THAT NO FUTURE STEPS OF THIS NATURE WILL BE TAKEN TO SPREAD THIS BASELESS ALARM EFFICALLY OR OTHERWISE.

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QTE THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S EMBASSY THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

QTE MOGADISHU, 22 JULY, 1975. UNQTE.  
LOUGHRAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY BASES, ALLEGATIONS, BERBERA, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, TEXTS, DIPLOMATIC NOTES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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